

I am very concerned about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the presidential election. This is an example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Because Sinclair is granted use of the public airwaves free of charge, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when too few major companies control the airwaves, we get less of the news that we need for our democracy. Instead, one large company can air a piece that is seen by people on both sides of the aisle as free advertising for for the Republican candidate. Imagine the outcry from Republicans if the tables were turned. Actions such as Sinclair's are the very things that make people skeptical about government and the political process in general. Ultimately, this type of action harms our democracy, and our government that is to serve all of the people.

This move by Sinclair simply does not pass the smell test to be classified as "news." The American people know the difference. Sinclair's proposed action shows why we need to strengthen media ownership rules for the good of our country, rather than weaken them. Only companies that truly play fair should be granted access to the public airwaves. Thank you for taking these comments.